

Wireless Network Operator RFP Questions and Answers October 10, 2019

1. Section 2.7 “Does the State have a list of microcells which they require installed?”

No. Bidders may deploy microcells at their discretion. It would be less expensive to re-activate microcells that are already installed, so we recommend this. Information about installed microcells is provided on the RFP page (Excel, KML, interactive map).

The RFP stated that 35 towns expressed interest in potentially offering financial support, on average for 2 microcells per town. The survey results by town are posted on the RFP page.

2. Section 2.7 “Is the state indicating additional RAN’s or Microcells can be installed at the vendor’s discretion?”

Yes. Bidders may deploy microcells at their discretion.

3. Section 2.10.1 “Please clarify direct or indirect extension of service in the areas?”

Direct extension would be a carrier deploying its own service to its customers in an area, whereas indirect extension of service would be a carrier offering roaming service to customers of other providers.

4. Section 2.11.5 “Is the State willing to upgrade to 5G?”

Yes, but only if it deployed mobile wireless voice service into areas that presently lack such service.

5. Section 2.13.2 “Please provide a detailed explanation of what is meant “entice retail carrier participation”

If a provider will not be offering service directly to its own customers, but instead will be offering roaming service to customers of other providers, the success of the endeavor depends upon the other providers agreeing to participate. The bidder should demonstrate the likelihood that other carriers will allow their customers to roam onto the microcell network.

6. State Parks

In addition to the expression of interest from the 35 towns through the survey, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has expressed that it would support microcells at five (5) state parks. Support could also be offered in an additional nine (9) parks, pending additional investigation. Support would be limited to a.) colocation, b.) electricity, and c.) internet access. If the Bidder would operate the microcell to provide mobile wireless voice service in the area, the State would provide the support services.

Parks where support is offered:

- Elmore, town of Elmore
- Little River, town of Waterbury
- Maidstone, town of Maidstone
- Stillwater, town of Groton
- Ricker Pond, town of Groton

Other parks where support may be offered:

- Silver Lake, town of Barnard (existing Microcell in place)
- Coolidge, town of Plymouth
- Jamaica, town of Jamaica
- Lake Carmi, town of Franklin
- New Discovery, town of Marshfield
- Big Deer, town of Groton
- Boulder Beach, town of Groton
- Seyon Lodge, town of Groton
- Brighton, town of Brighton